

**KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES**

May 14, 2014

5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dr. John Nazarian, Ms. Helen Morcos, Ms. Johnna Bicknell, Ms. Anne Considine, Ms. Debra Deion, Ms. Anne Kuzminsky, Ms. Lorraine Melillo, Ms. Linda Paolillo, and Dr. Lionel Murray

Members Absent: Dr. June Groden, Ms. Lisa Davis, Mr. Rob Raposo

Guests: Ms. Tanya Deanseris, Assistant Principal

Recording Secretary: Ms. Linda Ollari

Dr. Nazarian called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2014 Meeting

Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2014 Board meeting. The motion was made to accept the minutes. Dr. Murray noted that a correction needed to be made to the Principal's Report: a fifth-grade classroom needs to be included in the description of classes planned for the 2014-2015 year. Dr. Murray moved to amend the minutes accordingly; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The amended motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.

2. Parent Comments/Staff Comments

None.

3. Financial Report – Ms. Helen Morcos

Ms. Morcos confirmed that the letter to the Board issued from Mullen Scorpio Cerilli distributed at the April 3, 2014 meeting was corrected to reflect Board of Trustees, not Board of Directors.

Ms. Morcos distributed the financial report to all Board members. For the nine-month period ending March 31, 2014, KHA has a deficit of \$36,827 due to additional 1:1 staffing for special needs students, the addition of teacher aides, and higher than expected transportation costs. There is enough of a fund balance to cover the deficit.

A brief interruption of the financial report was taken in order to welcome Dr. Murray to the meeting. The Board members and other attendees introduced themselves to Dr. Murray.

Ms. Paolillo is working with Lina Sena in Finance to file The Consolidated Resource Package (CRP) to transfer some of the special education expenses.

Regarding transportation costs, the cost was expected to be \$120,000, but came in at \$211,000. KHA is working with the League of Charter Schools on a solution for transportation. State aid for charter schools continues to decrease each year. Ms. Morcos suggested to Dr. Nazarian that he might want to schedule a meeting with David Abbott to discuss state aid.

Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. Principal's Report – Ms. Linda Paolillo

a. Review/Approval of 2014-2015 Calendar

Ms. Paolillo distributed a draft of the 2014-2015 KHA school calendar, noting that KHA offers 5 more school days than Compass School. Ms. Kuzminsky commented on the absence of Jewish holidays. Dr. Murray inquired about the education payout of the 5 extra days for KHA versus Compass School. Ms. Paolillo explained that KHA will offer more full weeks of instruction, resulting in more learning benefit and uninterrupted education which affords a good stride for the students. Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to approve the school calendar for 2014-2015. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Ms. Paolillo requested that Ms. Deanseris give her report at this time before discussing the transportation item on the agenda.

5. Assistant Principal's Report – Ms. Tanya Deanseris

Ms. Deanseris reported that the fourth-grade students took the Science NECAP test last week; the scores will be made available in September. The students were very diligent; Jen Geaber had been assisting and the teachers worked with the kids to help them communicate effectively. The third-graders will take the second portion of PARC (math, understanding concepts, and fluency).

The contracts for Lexia and Symphony will be expiring; KHA teachers are looking at new benchmark assessments for next year and are leaning towards STAR (reading, math, literacy). The lower grade levels like Lexia and it's not expensive; the teachers are considering renewing Lexia for grades K through 2, though it won't necessarily be used as the benchmark.

Ms. Deanseris reported that she will not be returning to KHA next year and thanked everyone for the opportunity. The Board members wished Ms. Deanseris luck and thanked her for all her hard work.

A requisition has been submitted to replace Ms. Deanseris; a large response has been received.

4. Principal's Report – Ms. Linda Paolillo (continued from above)

b. Review/Approval of Transportation Contract

Ms. Paolillo distributed a proposal from The Flahive Consulting Group outlining a potential bid. Ms. Paolillo reported that she had been working with Michael Obel-Omia, Interim Principal, at the Compass School on the transportation contract; but a new Principal has been hired so she is now working with the new Principal. KHA and Compass School provided current student addresses to two private companies, First Student and Ocean State Transit. First Student did not come back with an official bid but said they would need to provide 15 busses in order to transport students. Ocean State Transit presented their bus routes and their bid was to provide 8 busses, with community stops and bus monitors. The names of the two schools would be displayed on the sides of the busses. Ocean State Transit's bid (\$490,000) is less than the school district bid; to be split with Compass. Compass has 160 students but a lot of their parents drop off and pick up their children; KHA has 180 students. An agreement would need to be reached as to the amount to be paid by each school.

The Board members discussed that the proposal from The Flahive Consulting Group distributed by Ms. Paolillo is not an official bid; it does not include specifics and is not signed. Ms. Paolillo requested that the Board approve the information outlined in the proposal and she would request an official signed bid from Ocean State Transit that outlines their intent to meet KHA's requirements (group stops, length of time students spend on busses, etc.) and the cost to KHA and Compass.

Dr. Murray made a motion that the Board received the proposal from The Flahive Consulting Group, reviewed it and is entertaining the proposal amount, and has asked Ms. Paolillo to contact Ocean State and ask them to prepare a contract against KHA's requirements amounting to not more than \$490,392. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Paolillo will contact Ocean State. Once she receives the contract, she will scan it and send it to all Board members.

Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to accept Ms. Paolillo's report. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

6. Terms of Trustees

The terms of the Board members were reviewed in advance of next month's annual meeting.

Ms. Paolillo offered to contact Mr. Raposo to ascertain his status.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

Ms. Paolillo distributed a letter that KHA will send to Deborah Gist requesting a minor amendment to KHA's charter; this will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Deion commented that her husband works with many contractors in the area and would be willing to answer any questions from the Board regarding the expansion of KHA.

Ms. Morcos commented that she is applying for housing aid with the State of Rhode Island.

9. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next meeting date: June 25, 2014

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